1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Client's ref.:890103/2001-5-25 File:0338-5792USF/Ray/Robert

## What Is Claimed Is:

- time-sequential color-separating including a plurality of modules sequentially connected to each other, in which each module includes a dichroic mirror, which can pass a certain wavelength range of light having a first polarization and reflect the other wavelength range of light having a first polarization, a polarizing beam-splitter for said certain wavelength range and a liquid crystal panel that can change the polarization of a light reflected by the liquid crystal panel if an external electric field is applied thereto, wherein the light having a first polarization reflected by the liquid crystal panel is reflected along the incident optical path while no external electric field is applied to the liquid crystal, the light having a first polarization reflected by the liquid crystal panel becomes a light having a second polarization if an external electric field is applied thereto, the light having a second polarization is then reflected by the polarizing beam splitter and is emitted along a direction that is orthogonal to the incident light, various modules passing various wavelength ranges are connected one by one, an external electric field is sequentially applied to the liquid crystal panel of each module, so that various wavelength ranges of lights having a first polarization is turned to lights having a second polarization and are sequentially emitted along the direction orthogonal to the incident light.
- 1 2. The color-separating device as claimed in claim 1 2 wherein the liquid crystal panel is a ferroelectric liquid 3 crystal panel.

3

4

## Client's ref.:890103/2001-5-25 File:0338-5792USF/Ray/Robert

- 3. The color-separating device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the various wavelength ranges include the wavelength ranges of red light, green light and blue light.
- 1 4. A fast time-sequential color-separating device including:
  - a prism module for separating an incident light into various wavelength ranges of light beams which are emitted from various prisms of the prism module;
    - a plurality of ferroelectric liquid crystal panels, respectively placed on emerging surfaces of the various wavelength ranges of light beams, to reflect the various wavelength ranges of light beams to the prism module; and
    - a power supply, respectively connected to the plurality of ferroelectric liquid crystal panels, for fast-switching the liquid crystal panels, respectively, to sequentially emit the various wavelength ranges of light beams from the prism module.
- 5. The color-separating device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the prism module includes six dichroic prisms.
- 1 6. The color-separating device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the power supply is a continuous pulse source.
- 7. The color-separating device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the number of the ferroelectric liquid crystal panels is 3.

3

4

5

7

8

12

13

14

15

16

## Client's ref.:890103/2001-5-25 File:0338-5792USF/Ray/Robert

- 1 8. The color-separating device as claimed in claim 4 2 wherein the various wavelength ranges include the wavelength 3 ranges of red light, green light and blue light.
- 1 9. The color-separating device as claimed in claim 5 2 wherein the dichroic prism is replaced by a dichroic mirror.
- 1 10. A fast time-sequential color-separating liquid crystal 2 projector including:
  - a prism module that separates an incident light into various wavelength ranges of light beams which are emitted from various prisms of the prism module;
  - a plurality of ferroelectric liquid crystal panels, respectively placed on emerging surfaces of the various wavelength ranges of light beams, to reflect the various wavelength ranges of light beams to the prism module; and
  - a power supply, respectively connected to the plurality of ferroelectric liquid crystal panels, fast-switching the liquid crystal panels, respectively, to sequentially emit the various wavelength ranges of light beams from the prism module;
  - a display module that receives and modulates the various wavelength ranges of light beams sequentially emitted from the prism module and then projects modulated light beams.
- 11. The liquid crystal projector as claimed in claim 10 1 2 wherein the display module is a single panel of transmissive 3 liquid crystal light valve.

## Client's ref.:890103/2001-5-25 File:0338-5792USF/Ray/Robert

- 1 12. The liquid crystal projector as claimed in claim 10 2 wherein the display module is a single panel of reflective liquid
- 3 crystal light valve.
- 1 13. The liquid crystal projector as claimed in claim 10 2 wherein the various wavelength ranges include the wavelength 3 ranges of red light, green light and blue light.
- 1 14. The liquid crystal projector as claimed in claim 10 wherein the prism module includes six dichroic prisms.
- 1 15. The liquid crystal projector as claimed in claim 10 2 wherein the number of the ferroelectric liquid crystal panels 3 is 3.
  - 16. The liquid crystal projector as claimed in claim 10 wherein the power supply is a continuous pulse source.
- 1 17. The liquid crystal projector as claimed in claim 11 2 wherein the liquid crystal light valve is a ferroelectric liquid 3 crystal light valve.
- 1 18. The liquid crystal projector as claimed in claim 12 2 wherein the liquid crystal light valve is a ferroelectric liquid 3 crystal light valve.